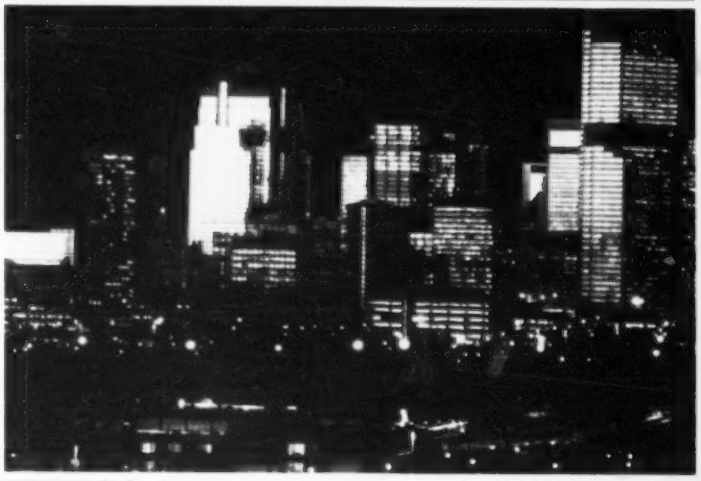
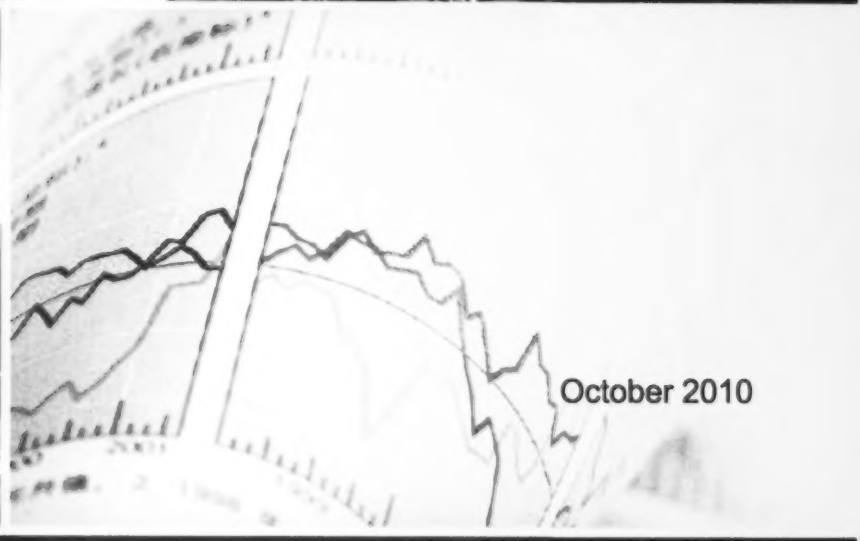




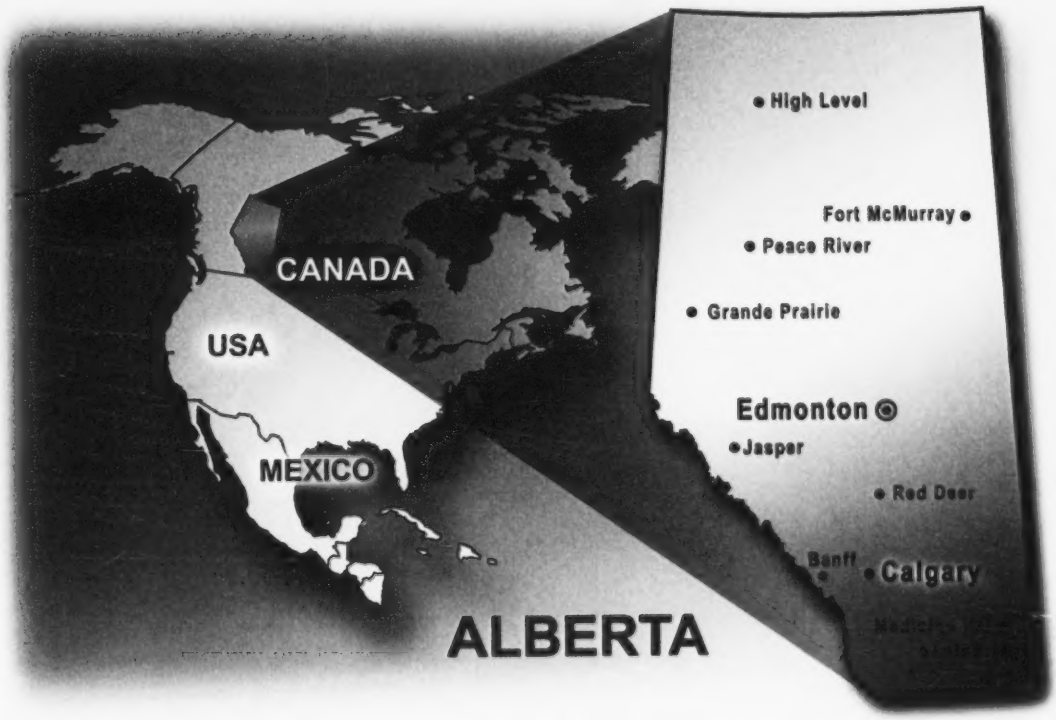
October 2010

Facts on Alberta
Living and doing Business in Alberta

Government of Alberta

FACTS ON ALBERTA

LIVING AND DOING BUSINESS IN ALBERTA



Alberta

PROVINCIAL POPULATION:	3,721,000 as of July 1, 2010
AREA:	Over 661,000 square kilometres
MAJOR CITIES POPULATION:	***Edmonton metropolitan area*** – 1,155,400 (2009) ***Calgary metropolitan area*** – 1,230,200 (2009)
GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT:	$291.3 billion (2008, current dollars) $185.8 billion (2008, chained 2002 dollars)
REAL ECONOMIC GROWTH: (chained 2002 dollars)	**2009**: -5.1% (estimate) 2008: 0.0% 2007: 2.5%
ECONOMIC BASE:	***Traditional*** • Oil and Gas • Petrochemicals • Agricultural Services • Food and Beverage Processing • Tourism • Industrial Machinery and Equipment ***Emerging*** • Nanotechnology • Biotechnology and Pharmaceuticals • Software Development • Electronics and Microelectronics
PUBLIC AND PRIVATE INVESTMENT: $66.5 billion (2009)	
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE:	6.6% (2009) 3.6% (2008) 3.5% (2007)
GOVERNMENT:	The Alberta government's strategy combines natural advantages with a positive business climate that encourages investment and growth. This includes: • a low tax regime; • streamlined regulations; • a strong fiscal framework; and • a modern infrastructure of transportation, utilities, education and health.

This report is based on information and sources considered to be reliable at time of publication.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ALBERTA - FRESH OPPORTUNITIES **1**
- Business 1
- Lifestyle. 1

ECONOMY **2**
- Alberta Economic Results. 2
- Economic Well-Being. 3
- Economic Structure 5
- Alberta Economic Indicators 6

PRODUCTIVITY **7**

TAXATION **10**
- Personal Income Taxes. 11
- Interprovincial Tax and Health Care Premium Comparison. 12
- Corporate Taxation. 14
- Research and Development Tax Credits 16
- Municipal Taxation. 17

REAL ESTATE **18**
- Industrial Real Estate 18
- Commercial Real Estate 20
- Residential Housing 22

LABOUR FORCE **24**
- Employment 24
- Skilled Labour 26
- Wages and Salaries 27
- Employment Standards 30

INVENTORY OF MAJOR ALBERTA PROJECTS **31**

TRANSPORTATION **32**
- Railways 32
- Highways 33
- Air Service 33

POST SECONDARY EDUCATION **34**
- Alberta Universities and Technical Institutes 35
  - University of Alberta 35
  - University of Calgary 36
  - University of Lethbridge 37
  - Athabasca University 37
  - Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT) 38
  - Southern Alberta Institute of Technology (SAIT) 38
  - Grant MacEwan University 39
  - Mount Royal University 40
- Public and Private Colleges. 41
- Educational Support 41

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY **43**
- Research Funding at Universities 45
- World Class Research Infrastructure 45

ALBERTA - FRESH OPPORTUNITIES

Business

Alberta has been blessed with an abundance of natural resources that have formed the foundation of its thriving economy. The Alberta government has built on this foundation by engineering an economic plan and creating a positive business climate that encourages investment, fosters diversification and allows businesses to compete successfully around the globe. The result is one of the most vibrant and competitive economies in the world. Overall, Alberta's globally competitive business climate consists of:

- a diverse and relatively strong economy;
- a young, skilled and productive workforce;
- a strong commitment to innovation and knowledge-based progress;
- a highly entrepreneurial and competitive business community;
- a business-friendly province committed to responsible regulation;
- the lowest overall tax load of any province in Canada, including no provincial sales tax;
- a modern and efficient infrastructure;
- an abundance of natural resources; and
- a fiscally responsible provincial government.

Lifestyle

Each year, thousands of people move to Alberta, drawn by personal or business opportunities and the exceptional standard of living. Alberta is a prosperous province, where residents share a rich natural environment and enjoy outstanding opportunities in recreation, arts and culture. In particular, Alberta offers:

- safe, modern cities and charming small towns and villages;
- cultural diversity;
- accessible education and health care;
- tremendous recreation and leisure opportunities;
- music, dance, film, literature, theatre and visual arts experiences;
- sporting events, fairs and rodeos;
- internationally recognized museums, national parks and world heritage sites; and
- clean, beautiful, natural environment.

ECONOMY

Alberta's economy contracted in 2009 as a result of the global economic recession and falling commodity prices. Over the long term a low unemployment rate, a well trained workforce and an increasingly diversified economy will contribute to Alberta's economy again leading the nation in economic growth.

Alberta Economic Results

- Over the last two decades, Alberta had the highest Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth rate in Canada, at 3.1% per year. However, in 2009 Alberta's economy declined by an estimated 5.1%. Alberta's economy emerged from its recession at the end of 2009 and is expected to see positive growth in 2010. Most private sector forecasters expect the province to continue to lead the country in economic growth over the long term.
- Alberta's exports of goods decreased by 37% between 2008 and 2009 to an estimated $69.1 billion. This decline was mainly the result of falling commodity prices for items such as crude oil, natural gas, chemicals and agricultural commodities.
- Alberta's manufacturing shipments decreased 21.6% from 2008 to 2009 (from $70.4 billion to $55.2 billion).
- The province consistently has the highest investment per capita among provinces. In 2009, Alberta investment per capita was $18,024, nearly double the national average. A total of $66.5 billion was invested in 2009, close to two times the amount invested in 1999.
- Average annual employment in the province in 2009 decreased by 25,200 over 2008. Between 1999 and 2009, employment increased by 444,100.
- Alberta's average unemployment rate in 2009 was the third lowest in Canada at 6.6%.

Interprovincial Indicators

Province	2010 Population (000s)	Unemployment Rate 2009 (%)	2008 GDP ($ millions)		Real Economic Growth (%, at 2002 Prices)			
			Current $	Constant $*	1998 - 2008	2007	2008	2009**
Newfoundland and Labrador	510	15.5	31,277	19,953	4.7	9.1	0.5	-10.2
Prince Edward Island	142	12.0	4,624	4,148	2.1	2.5	0.5	0.7
Nova Scotia	943	9.2	34,188	29,215	2.3	1.2	2.2	-0.5
New Brunswick	752	8.9	27,372	23,351	2.4	0.4	0.0	-0.8
Quebec	7,907	8.5	302,225	269,665	2.5	2.8	1.0	-1.0
Ontario	13,211	9.0	587,827	532,209	2.9	2.3	-0.5	-3.1
Manitoba	1,235	5.2	50,834	42,407	2.3	3.6	2.0	-0.2
Saskatchewan	1,046	4.8	63,509	41,583	2.1	3.6	4.2	-6.3
Alberta	3,721	6.6	291,256	185,780	3.3	2.5	0.0	-5.1
British Columbia	4,531	7.6	197,931	164,520	3.0	2.9	0.0	-2.3
Canada	34,109	8.3	1,599,608	1,318,055	2.9	2.4	0.4	-2.6

Notes:
*2008 GDP in chained 2002 dollars.
**Statistics Canada estimates for GDP at basic prices (by industry)
Sources: Statistics Canada

Economic Well-Being

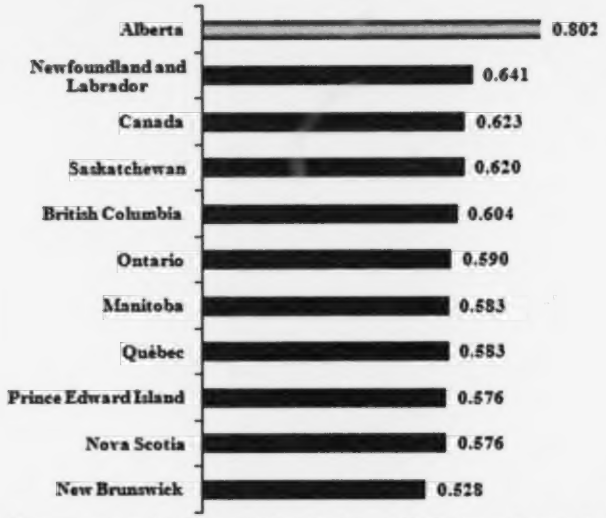
Alberta boasts a high standard of living. The standard of living of Albertans, as measured in GDP per capita, has grown consistently since 2000, outperforming the rest of Canada. In 2008, it was the highest of all provinces – 69% above the Canadian average.

Standard of Living by Province, 2008
(GDP per Capita)

Note: Current dollar GDP
Source: Statistics Canada

Alberta has been the nation's leader in economic well-being since 1993, as measured by the index published by the Centre for the Study of Living Standards. In 2009, Alberta maintained the top spot in the nation with an index of 0.80 out of a possible score of 1.00. The index value for Alberta is 29% higher than the Canadian average.

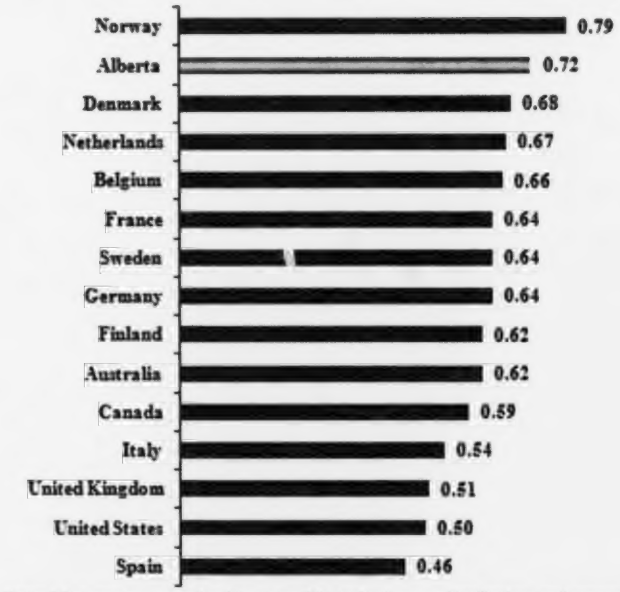
Index of Economic Well-Being by Province, 2009



Note: Measures consumption flows, wealth stocks, income distribution, and economic security.
Source: Centre for the Study of Living Standards

The province's strong performance in economic well-being indicators was also evident in international comparisons. In 2008, Alberta ranked second compared to 14 OECD nations in an international comparison of economic well-being.

Index of Economic Well-Being – International Comparison, 2008



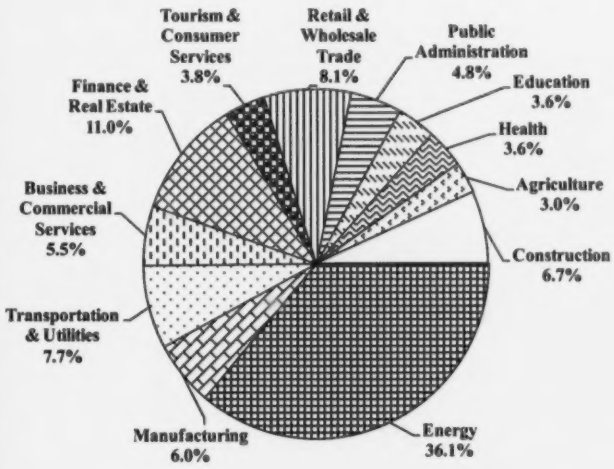
Note: Measures consumption flows, wealth stocks, income distribution, and economic security.
Source: Centre for the Study of Living Standards

Economic Structure

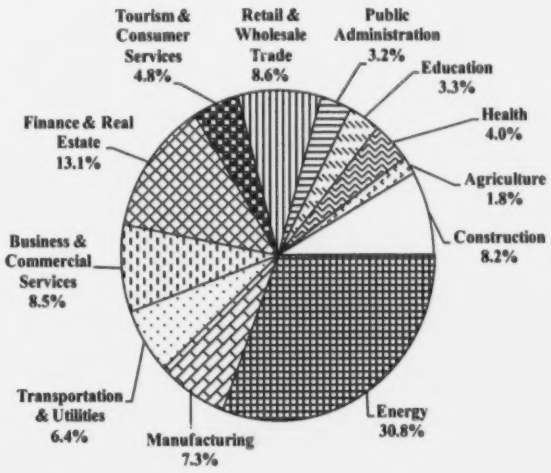
Energy remains the key driver of Alberta's economy, accounting for more than one-quarter of the province's GDP. However, compared to 1985, energy's contribution to GDP has declined from 36.1% to 30.8% in 2008, a result of the growth in other sectors of the economy.

The four non-energy sectors that registered the strongest expansion from 1985 to 2008 were: finance and real estate (11.0% to 13.1%); business and commercial services (5.5% to 8.4%): construction (6.7% to 8.2%); and manufacturing (6.0% to 7.3%). The combined contribution of these four sectors grew from 29.2% in 1985 to 37.0% in 2008.

Distribution of GDP – 1985
Total GDP at Market Prices: $66.5 Billion



Distribution of GDP – 2008
Total GDP at Market Prices: $291.3 Billion



Source: Alberta Finance and Enterprise

Alberta Economic Indicators

Indicator	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	% Change 2008-2009	Year-to-Date (YTD) Jan - June 2009	Jan - June 2010	YTD % Change 2009-10
Demographics:									
Population ('000's), as of July 1	3,421.3	3,518.4	3,591.4	3,678.4	3,720.9	2.2%			-
Net international migration (July 1 through June 30)	21,279	20,837	34,252	25,900	21,456	5.1%			-
Net inter-provincial migration (July 1 through June 30)	45,795	33,800	15,317	13,100	(2,183)	-			-
Labour Force:									
Employment ('000's)	1,870.7	1,959.4	2,013.3	1,985.8		-1.3%	1,998.0	1,978.1	-0.5%
Job creation ('000's)	86.4	88.7	54.0	(27.5)		-			-
Full Time ('000's)	1,570.1	1,644.6	1,687.5	1,633.4		-3.2%	1,634.2	1,630.1	-0.2%
Part Time ('000's)	300.6	314.8	325.8	355.4		9.0%	364.0	348.0	-4.4%
Unemployment Rate (%)	3.4	3.4	3.6	6.1		-	6.1	6.1	-
Employment Insurance beneficiaries (#)	18,834	16,830	17,702	56,529		219.5%	43,771	50,600	15.6%
Average Weekly Earnings ($, incl. overtime)	823.35	871.18	923.21	950.24		2.9%	931.87	966.70	3.7%
Wages and salaries ($ millions)	95,678	106,600	115,487	115,600		0.2%	58,119	59,950	3.1%
Gross Domestic Product:									
Gross Domestic Product, nominal ($millions)	238,410	258,900	291,256			-			-
Gross Domestic Product, chained 2002$ (millions)	181,418	193,600	185,780			-			-
Real GDP growth (%)	6.1	6.7	0.0	[illegible]		-			-
Construction:									
Capital investment, construction and M&E ($ millions)	76,924	83,900	89,744	66,400		-25.9%			-
Capital investment per capita ($)	22,484	23,800	24,989	18,000		-27.5%			-
Capital investment, construction ($ millions)	52,987	58,300	65,155	47,500		-27.0%			-
Capital investment, M&E ($ millions)	23,937	24,600	24,589	18,900		-23.1%			-
Building permits ($millions)	13,876	15,000	13,141	11,300		-14.2%	4,800	6,200	29.6%
Housing starts in all areas (number)	48,962	48,200	29,164	20,000		-30.4%	8,900	17,900	101.8%
Consumer Spending and Income:									
Retail trade ($million)	55,972	60,000	61,614	58,600		-8.3%	28,000	29,300	4.8%
Personal income per capita ($)	43,116	45,200	48,109	-		-			-
Personal disposable income per capita ($)	33,134	35,000	37,189	-		-			-
New car sales (number)	248,730	227,000	238,413	188,700		-21.7%	84,100	92,100	9.5%
MLS, units sold	75,970	70,500	56,045	53,500		2.7%	25,000	24,600	-1.5%
MLS, average price ($)	286,874	340,000	351,395	340,400		-3.1%	320,300	342,000	6.8%
Consumer Price Index (2002=100)	112.3	117.9	121.6	120.5		-0.1%	120.2	121.7	1.2%
Consumer bankruptcies (number)	5,248	5,200	6,066	9,980		64.6%	5,000	4,200	-15.2%
International and Inter-Provincial Trade:									
International exports - goods ($millions)	77,744	81,300	110,173	69,400		-37.3%	33,500	40,200	20.0%
International exports - goods & services ($millions)	85,635	89,600	118,292	-		-			-
Business Entry & Exit:									
Incorporations (number)	48,207	48,000	43,515	35,200		-19.2%	17,000	19,400	14.2%
Business bankruptcies (number)	666	575	447	435		-9.4%	205	200	-2.4%
Energy:									
Crude oil production ('000 m3)	106,018	109,600	108,685	111,200		2.8%	54,400	57,300	5.4%
Natural gas production (million m3)	167,385	163,300	157,664	146,600		-7.0%	74,000	70,400	-7.1%
Wells drilled - completion basis (number)	16,687	14,500	15,346	6,600		-56.3%	2,100	2,100	-
Number of active drilling rigs (average #)	371	350	256	139		-45.8%	121	177	46.1%
Manufacturing:									
Manufacturing shipments ($millions)	65,091	69,900	70,488	53,900		-23.7%	27,131	28,700	6.0%
Wholesale:									
Wholesale trade ($millions)	58,427	60,300	66,361	55,900		-15.9%	28,900	29,500	2.2%
Agriculture:									
Farm cash receipts ($millions)	7,745	8,600	10,157	9,300		-8.1%			-

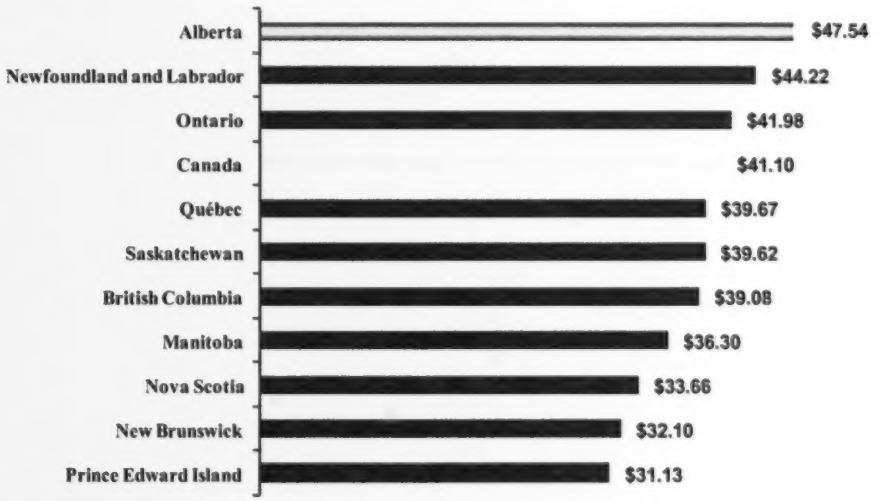
Sources: Industry Canada, Service Alberta, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, Canadian Real Estate Association, Statistics Canada, Alberta Finance and Enterprise, Canadian Association of Oilwell Drilling Contractors.

PRODUCTIVITY

Productivity measures the efficiency with which resources are employed in the production process. It is the most important source of long-term economic growth and increased standard of living as it addresses the overall performance of a company or economy through achieving greater resource allocation, human resource efficiency, increased innovation, technology diffusion and capital investment.

Productivity is an essential component to the success and health of every company in Alberta and the overall standard of living of Albertans. Alberta has a favourable environment that supports productivity: low taxes, a well-developed innovation system, a skilled labour force, and a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship. In 2009, Alberta's labour productivity – measured as the ratio of output (GDP) to labour inputs (hours worked) – was higher than that of any other province. Total value added (or GDP) per hour in Alberta was 116% of the Canadian average.

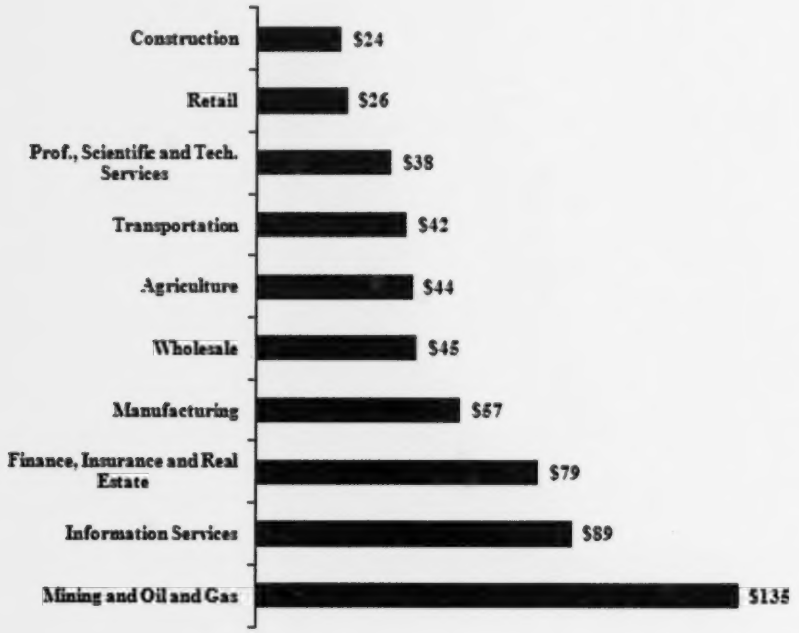
Labour Productivity by Province – Total Economy, 2009
(real GDP per hour worked)



Note: GDP at basic prices in chained 2002 dollars
Sources: Statistics Canada, Alberta Finance and Enterprise

The mining and oil and gas, information services, finance and insurance and manufacturing sectors had the highest labour productivity in Alberta in 2009.

Labour Productivity by Industry in Alberta, 2009
(real GDP per hour worked)



Note: GDP at basic prices in chained 2002 dollars
Sources: Statistics Canada, Alberta Finance and Enterprise

Alberta's manufacturing sector had the highest productivity of all provinces, partly because of its highly productive chemical, machinery and food processing industries. In 2009, the total value added per hour in Alberta exceeded the Canadian average by 17.1%.

Manufacturing Sector Labour Productivity by Province, 2009
(real GDP per hour worked)

Note: GDP at basic prices in 2002 chained dollars
Sources: Statistics Canada, Alberta Finance and Enterprise

Alberta has a commitment to creating a supportive environment for companies in the province to improve their productivity and become successful in world markets. For example, Alberta's provincial scientific research and experimental development (SR&ED) tax credit is worth 10% of a company's eligible expenditures up to $4 million, for a maximum credit of $400,000.

Alberta Competitiveness Act

The Alberta Competitiveness Act is a new piece of legislation introduced in spring 2010. The aim of the bill is to bring together several initiatives to make Alberta the most competitive jurisdiction in North America. These initiatives include maintaining and growing export markets, fostering value-added opportunities in the agriculture and agri-food industry and ensuring that the energy sector remains vibrant and able to attract investment.

TAXATION

Albertans have the lowest overall personal taxes in Canada

- Alberta's personal tax advantage results from a low single rate tax system, including the highest basic and spousal exemptions in the country, no general sales tax, the lowest gasoline tax rate, and no health care premiums.

Alberta businesses have the lowest overall business taxes in Canada

- Alberta's business tax advantage results from low corporate income tax rates, no capital tax, no general sales tax, no payroll tax, and the lowest gasoline tax among the provinces.

Major Provincial Tax Rates, 2010

		BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	PQ	NB	NS	PEI	NL
Corporate Income Tax [1]											
General Rate	(%)	10.5	10.0	12.0	12.0	13.0	11.9 [3]	11.5	16.0	16.0	14.0
Mfg. & Proc. Rate	(%)	10.5	10.0	10.0 [2]	12.0	11.0	11.9 [3]	11.5	16.0	16.0	5.0
Small Business											
Rate	(%)	2.5	3.0	4.5	0.9	5.5	8.0	5.0	5.0	1.3	5.0
Threshold	($'000)	500	500	500	400	500	500	500	400	500	500
Capital Tax											
General	(max %)	-	-	-	0.30	0.225	0.07	0.12	0.25	-	-
Financial Institutions	(max %)	1.0	-	3.25	3.0	0.450	0.58 [4]	3.0	4.0	5.0	4.0
Health Care Premiums											
Indiv./ family (max) [5]	($)	57/114 [6]	-	-	-	300 [7]	25 [8]	-	-	-	-
Employer Payroll Tax	(max %)	-	-	-	2.15	1.95	4.26	-	-	-	2.00
General Sales Tax	(%)	7.0	-	5.0	7.0	8.0	7.5 [9]	8.0 [10]	8.0 [10]	10.0 [9]	8.0 [10]
Fuel Tax											
Gasoline	(¢/litre)	19 [11]	9.00	15.00	11.50	14.70	15.20	10.70	15.50	15.80	16.50
Tobacco Tax	($/ctn)	37.00	40.00	36.60	37.00	24.70	20.60	23.50	43.04	44.90	36.00
Hotel Room Tax [12]	(%)	8.0 [13]	4.0 [14]	-	-	3.0 [15]	3.0 [16]	-	-	-	-

Notes:
1. Prorated as of December 31, 2010.
2. A rebate of up to 2.5% of manufacturing profits allocated to Saskatchewan is available, which can reduce the rate to as low as 10%.
3. 11.9% tax rate applies to financial institutions (except insurance companies) and oil refining companies.
4. The Quebec financial institutions capital tax includes the base rate of 0.72% and a compensatory tax of 0.25%
5. Alberta eliminated health care premiums paid by individuals on January 1, 2009.
6. BC health care premiums are paid monthly.
7. Ontario annual health premium per individual is prorated based on taxable income (TI). TI under $20,000 premium is nil. TI of $20.0K to$25.0K premium is 6% of income > $20.0K; TI $25.0K to $36.0K premium is $300; TI $36.0K to $38.5K premium $300 + 6% of income > $36.0K; TI $38.5K to $48.0K premium $450; TI $48.0K to $48.6K $450 + 25% of income > $48.0K; TI $48.6K to $72.0K premium is $700; TI $72.0K to $72.6K premium $600 + 25% income over $72.0K; TI $72.6K to $200.0K premium is $750; TI $200.0K to $200.6K $750 + 25% of income over $200.0K; TI $200.6K or more premium is $900.
8. Quebec annual individual health premium will increase to $100 in 2011 and $200 thereafter.
9. These provinces apply their retail sales tax on the retail price of the good inclusive of GST.
10. Harmonized Sales Tax.
11. BC rate is 14.5 cents/litre plus carbon tax on gasoline of 4.45 centre/litre effective July 1, 2010.
12. Provincial rates. Some municipalities may levy additional taxes.
13. Hotel tax will be eliminated effective July 1, 2010 with the introduction of harmonized sales tax (HST).
14. Tourism levy where revenue collected is dedicated to tourism marketing and development.
15. Destination marketing fee of up to 3% is charged by some transient accommodation establishments to fund tourism marketing campaigns. Provincial sales tax (RTS) is applied at a rate of 5 per cent to the total value of transient accommodation.
16. The tax varies between 3% and 2$ per room depending on the region.

Sources: PriceWaterhouseCoopers, Tax Facts and Figures 2010; Alberta Finance and Enterprise; Revenue Quebec; Nova Scotia Department of Finance; Newfoundland Department of Finance; New Brunswick Department of Finance; British Columbia Small Business and Revenue; Saskatchewan Department of Finance;

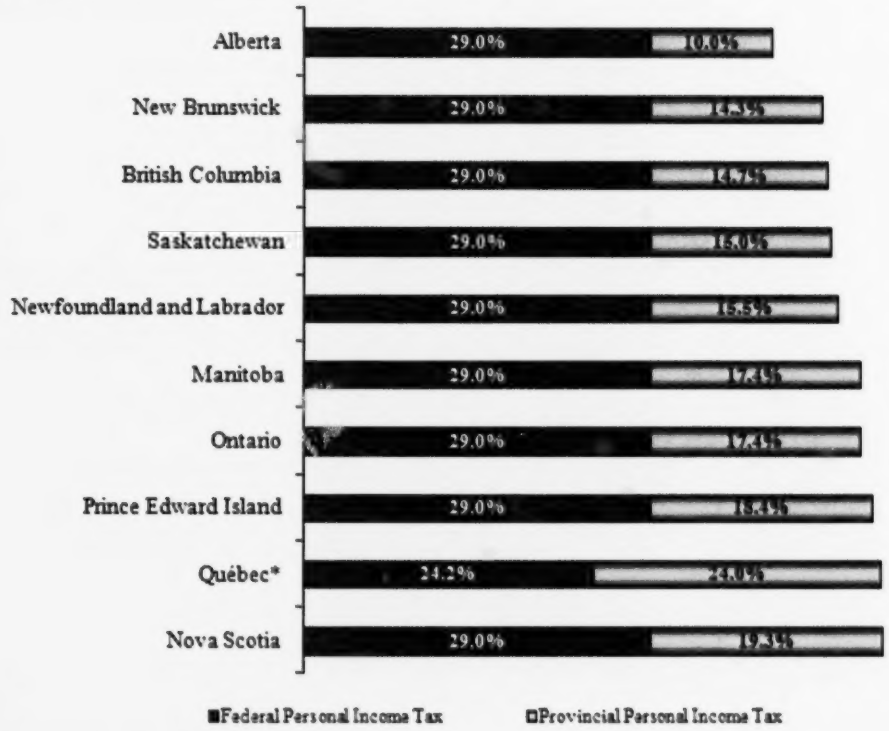
Personal Income Taxes

Alberta's low personal income taxes allow people to spend or invest more of their own money according to their wishes. Alberta's low top marginal tax rate rewards the efforts of Albertans and attracts skilled workers from around the world, further fuelling an already dynamic economy.

Alberta indexes its personal income tax system to offset inflation, protecting taxpayers. For the 2010 tax year, an additional $50 was added to the basic, spousal and eligible dependant amounts, raising them from $16,825 in 2009.

The annual indexing of the Alberta Family Employment Tax Credit began in July 2006. The maximum benefits as of July 2010 are: $696 for one child; $1,329 for two children; $1,709 for three children; and $1,826 for four or more children. The income level at which the credit begins to be phased out is $33,974. A typical working family with two children can earn up to $67,199 net income in the previous calendar year before paying provincial income taxes, as the Alberta Family Employment Tax Credit offsets any income taxes paid to that level.

Top Marginal Effective Personal Income Tax Rates – May 2010



*Federal rates that apply in Quebec have been reduced by the 16.5% "Quebec abatement".
Note: Includes Surtaxes
Source: PriceWaterhouseCoopers, *Tax News Network May 2010*

Albertans benefit from not having to pay a general provincial sales tax. This particularly helps Albertans with lower incomes.

Personal Taxable Income Brackets and Rates by Province – 2010

	Basic Amount	Basic Brackets and Rates (rates apply starting at the brackets shown)					Surtax thresholds and Rates**
Alberta	$16,825	$0 10%					N/A
British Columbia	$11,000	$0 5.06%	$35,859 7.70%	$71,719 10.50%	$82,342 12.29%	$99,987 14.70%	
Manitoba	$8,134	$0 10.80%	$31,000 12.75%	$67,000 17.40%			
New Brunswick	$8,777	$0 9.30%	$36,421 12.50%	$72,843 13.30%	$118,427 14.30%		
Newfoundland and Labrador	$7,833	$0 7.70%	$31,278 12.65%	$62,556 14.40%			n/a nil
Northwest Territories	$12,740	$0 5.90%	$37,106 8.60%	$74,214 12.20%	$120,656 14.05%		N/A
Nova Scotia	$8,231	$0 8.79%	$29,590 14.95%	$59,180 16.67%	$93,000 17.50%	$150,000 21.00%	n/a n/a
Nunavut*	$11,714	$0 4.00%	$39,065 7.00%	$78,130 9.00%	$127,021 11.50%		N/A
Ontario	$8,943	$0 5.05%	$37,106 9.15%	$74,214 11.16%			$4,006 ($65,345), 20% $5,127 ($76,986), 36%
Prince Edward Island	$7,708	$0 9.80%	$31,984 13.80%	$63,969 16.70%			$12,500 ($98,143) 10.00%
Quebec*	$10,505	$0 12.53%	$40,970 18.37%	$81,941 21.71%	$127,021 24.22%		N/A
Saskatchewan	$133,448	$0 11.00%	$40,354 13.00%	$115,297 15.00%			

*In Quebec, the federal component of tax is reduced by the 16.5% abatement of basic federal tax.
**Surtax rates apply to provincial tax above surtax thresholds. Figures in brackets are the taxable income levels that correspond to the thresholds, assuming only the basic personal credit is claimed.
Sources: PriceWaterhouseCoopers, *Tax Facts and Figures 2008*; Nova Scotia Department of Finance

Interprovincial Tax and Health Care Premium Comparison

Alberta's overall personal taxes are the lowest in Canada in 2010. For example, a two-income family with two children, earning an income of $75,000 per year, pays $4,056 less in taxes in Alberta than in Nova Scotia and $2,494 less than residents of Ontario.

Albertans also benefit from the elimination of personal health care premiums which came into effect on January 1, 2009. Eliminating premiums in their entirety means that Alberta's tax system is even more competitive and equitable. The elimination results in significant savings – about $1 billion – for individual Albertans and Alberta businesses each year. This is roughly equal to a 12% reduction in personal income taxes.

Employment Income of $125,000 – Two-Income Family with Two Children ($) – 2010

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	PQ	NB	NS	PEI	NL
Provincial Income Tax	5,030	6,873	7,787	10,014	5,660	10,598	9,020	10,670	10,319	9,069
Provincial Sales Tax	2,292		1,505	2,300	2,779	2,909	3,154	2,849	3,265	3,137
Health Care Premium	1,026				788					
Payroll Tax				974	1,137	2,598				415
Fuel Tax	653	405	675	518	662	684	482	698	711	743
Total Provincial Tax	9,001	7,278	9,967	13,806	11,026	16,789	12,656	14,217	14,295	13,364

Employment Income of $75,000 – Two-Income Family with Two Children ($) – 2010

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	PQ	NB	NS	PEI	NL
Provincial Income Tax	1,935	2,630	2,649	4,518	1,776	2,559	4,098	4,476	4,723	3,868
Provincial Sales Tax	1,498		1,010	1,533	1,846	2,027	2,093	1,917	2,176	2,092
Health Care Premium	1,026				563					
Payroll Tax				584	682	1,559				249
Fuel Tax	653	405	675	518	662	684	482	698	711	743
Total Provincial Tax	5,112	3,035	4,334	7,153	5,529	6,829	6,673	7,091	7,610	6,952

Employment Income of $30,000 – One-Income Family with Two Children ($) - 2010

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	PQ	NB	NS	PEU	NL
Provincial Income Tax	312	(1,327)	(617)	267	(1,480)	(4,498)	306	820	1,066	502
Provincial Sales Tax	632		624	955	305	1,047	1,292	1,173	1,328	1,278
Health Care Premium					225					
Payroll Tax				234	273	624				100
Fuel Tax	435	270	450	345	441	456	321	465	474	495
Total Provincial Tax	1,379	(1,057)	457	1,801	(236)	(2,371)	1,919	2,458	2,868	2,375

Notes:
Calculations are based on other provinces' tax parameters known as of January 20,.2010.
Assumptions:

- Business is assumed to bear between 25% and 60% of the provincial sales tax, depending upon the provincial tax regime.
- Health care insurance premiums are net of premium subsidies.
- In provinces that impose payroll taxes, 75% is assumed to be borne by employees and 25% by employers. The same 75/25 split is assumed for the net health care insurance premiums.
- Fuel tax is based on estimated consumption of 3,000 litres per year for one-income families and 4,500 litres for two-income families.
- RRSP/RPP contributions of $1,000, $9,700 and $16,800 are included in the calculation of personal income tax for the $30,000, $75,000 and $125,000 families, respectively.
- For two-income families, income and RRSP/RPP contributions are split 60/40 between the two spouses.
- The children in each family are assumed to be 6 and 12 years old.

Source: Alberta Finance and Enterprise, *Budget 2010*

Corporate Taxation

Alberta provides an attractive tax environment for business. Alberta's low taxes on capital investment are a key factor in encouraging businesses to invest in new technologies and machinery, increasing innovation and boosting productivity. Ultimately this results in a higher standard of living for all Albertans. In addition, Alberta has no provincial capital or payroll taxes, which are common in many other provinces and U.S. states.

Provincial General Capital and Payroll Tax Rates – 2010

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	PQ	NB	NS	PEI	NL
Capital Tax (max %)	-	-	-	0.20	-	0.12	-	0.10	-	-
Payroll Tax (max %)	-	-	-	2.15	1.95	4.26	-	-	-	2.00

Source: Alberta Finance and Enterprise, *Budget 2010*

Provincial Corporate Income Tax Rates – pro-rated for December 31, 2010

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	PQ	NB	NS	PEI	NL
General (%)	10.5	10.0	12.0	12.0	13.0[3]	11.9	11.5[4]	16.0[5]	16.0	14.0
Mfg. & Processing (%)	10.5	10.0	10.0[1]	12.0	11.0[3]	11.9	11.5[4]	16.0	16.0	5.0
Small Business (%)	2.5	3.0	4.5	0.9[2]	5.5	8.0	5.0	5.0	1.3	5.0

(1) A rebate of up to 2% of manufacturing profits allocated to Saskatchewan is available, which can reduce the rate to as low as 10%.

(2) Manitoba will reduce its small business tax rate to zero on December 1, 2010.

(3) Ontario cut its general corporate tax rate from 14% to 12%, its manufacturing and processing rate from 12% to 10% and its small business rate from 5.5% to 4.5% on July 1, 2010

(4) New Brunswick's general corporate income tax rate dropped from 12.0% to 11.0% on July 1, 2010.

(5) Nova Scotia reduced its Large Corporations Tax from 1.5% to 1.0% effective July 1, 2010.

Source: Alberta Budget 2010

Federal Corporate Tax Rates – 2010

(in currency of country)

Federal Corporate Tax Rates	Canada	United States
Corporate Income Tax (%) [a]		
Top General Statutory Rate	18.0	**35.0**
Manufacturing Rate	18.0	**31.9**
Small Business	11.0	**34.0**
Combined Effective (Cdn. Federal +AB and US Federal + State Avg.)	28.0	**39.1**
General Sales Tax (%) [b]	5.0	-
Canada Pension Plan/Social Security [c]	4.95 % (max. $2,119 on max. contributory earnings of $42,800)	6.2% (max. $6,622 on max. contributory earnings of $106,800)
Employment Insurance/ Unemployment Tax (employer premiums) [d]	2.42% (max. $732 on max. insurable earnings of $42,300)	6.2% ($434 on taxable wage limit of $7,000)
Medicare	-	1.45%

Notes:

a) Canada: Federal small business rate is currently being applied to taxable income up to C$400,000. United States: The small business rate is the effective federal rate on taxable income of US$335,000 approximating the Canadian federal small business threshold. Combined effective rate shows the basic federal and a weighted average state corporate marginal income tax rate.

b) This refundable value-added tax has no net cost once input tax credits (refunds) have been claimed.

c) Represents Canada Pension Plan and U.S. Social Security. In Canada, employee and employer contribution rates were 4.95% of the employee pensionable earnings to a maximum contribution to the plan of $2,119. Individuals who earn less than $3,500 annually do not need to contribute to the plan. The tax exempt amount for U.S. Social Security is $13,560 per year.

d) Canada: All rates shown are maximum rates paid by employers at 1.4 times the employee premium and are levied at the federal level only. United States: Employers who pay the state unemployment tax receive an offset credit of up to 5.4% regardless of the rate of tax they pay the state. Therefore, the net FUTA tax rate can be as low as 0.8%, for a maximum federal tax of $56.00 per employee, per year. State law determines individual state unemployment insurance tax rates.

Sources: Internal Revenue Service; PriceWaterhouseCoopers, *Tax Facts and Figures 2009;* Canada Revenue Agency, Federation of Tax Administrators; U.S. Department of Labour; Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development

Research and Development Tax Credits

Federal Scientific Research and Experimental Development Program

The Scientific Research and Experimental Development (SR&ED) Program is a federal tax incentive program to encourage Canadian businesses of all sizes and in all sectors to conduct research and development (R&D) in Canada. The SR&ED Program is the largest single source of federal government support for industrial research and development.

Generally, a Canadian-controlled private corporation (CCPC) can earn an investment tax credit (ITC) of 35% up to the first $3 million of qualified expenditures for SR&ED carried out in Canada, and 20% on any excess amount. Other Canadian corporations, proprietorships, partnerships, and trusts can earn an ITC of 20% of qualified expenditures for SR&ED carried out in Canada.

Normally, a CCPC with a taxable income in the immediately preceding year that does not exceed the business limit may receive a portion of the ITC earned as a refund, after applying these tax credits against taxes payable. The ITC earned by a Canadian corporation that is not a CCPC is non-refundable, but may be used to reduce any taxes payable. The ITC earned by a proprietorship or certain trusts may be partially refunded after applying these tax credits against taxes payable.

To qualify for the SR&ED Program, work must advance the understanding of scientific relations or technologies, address scientific or technological uncertainty, and incorporate a systematic investigation by qualified personnel.

Work that qualifies for SR&ED tax credits includes:

- experimental development to achieve technological advancement through the creation of new materials, devices, products, or processes, or to improve existing ones;
- applied research to advance scientific knowledge with a specific practical application in view;
- basic research to advance scientific knowledge without a specific practical application in view; and
- support work in engineering, design, operations research, mathematical analysis, computer programming, data collection, testing, or psychological research, but only if the work is commensurate with, and directly supports, the eligible experimental development, or applied or basic research.

Alberta Scientific Research and Experimental Development Program

The Alberta Scientific Research and Experimental Development (SR&ED) tax credit is a key action in the provincial strategy to build a next generation economy in Alberta through technological innovation and the development of value-added sectors. It benefits businesses conducting research and development that will lead to new, improved or technologically advanced products or processes.

The Alberta SR&ED tax credit is over and above the federal SR&ED credit, helping to further the research and development investments made by Alberta companies. The credit is for all expenditures incurred after December 31, 2008 which are also eligible for the federal credit. The Alberta SR&ED tax credit is worth 10% of a company's eligible expenditures up to $4 million, for a maximum credit of $400,000. It will be refundable for all companies.

Municipal Taxation

In Alberta, the assessment of residential property for the purposes of municipal and education taxation is based on market value as set out in the *Municipal Government Act* and Regulations. There are two levies against assessable property in the province: the Municipal Levy, used to fund municipal services, and the Alberta Education Levy, collected on behalf of the provincial government to help fund education.

All business occupants in the cities of Calgary and Edmonton are assessed for business taxation. Business tax is calculated based on the assessed value of the space occupied by the business, multiplied by the annual tax rate as set by each city council. For 2010, the business tax rate for Calgary is 6.73% and the business mill rate for Edmonton is 2.125%. Beginning in 2011 Edmonton will not have a business mill rate.

REAL ESTATE

Industrial Real Estate

Alberta offers industrial real estate that is well serviced and meets a variety of needs. Smaller municipalities, such as Lethbridge and Red Deer, have facilities and land with rates that are competitive with larger centres.

Industrial Triple Net Rent* Per Square Foot – December 2009

	Warehouse/ Distribution Space ($/psf)	Bulk Space ($/psf)	Flex/Service Space ($/psf)	Tech/R&D Space ($/psf)
Canada	***6.45***	***5.76***	***8.59***	***10.41***
Calgary, AB	6.75	6.25	9.00	9.75
Edmonton, AB	7.10	6.25	8.15	9.00
Halifax, NS	6.50	5.00	8.95	13.95
Montréal, PQ	4.00	4.00	6.50	8.00
Ottawa, ON	6.75	6.75	8.50	10.00
Regina, SK	8.00	6.50	12.00	14.00
Toronto, ON	5.15	4.71	7.39	8.01
Vancouver, BC	6.75	6.25	8.00	9.50
US*	***5.26***	***4.66***	***9.91***	***11.42***
Chicago, IL	4.06	2.98	11.30	n/a
Dallas/Ft. Worth, TX	3.22	2.95	7.38	8.96
Denver, CO	3.95	3.69	8.96	10.02
Houston, TX	5.27	4.52	8.44	9.49
Phoenix, AZ	6.71	5.35	13.28	n/a
Portland, OR	5.61	5.57	10.20	5.61
Sacramento, CA	5.06	3.16	10.50	12.02
San Jose/Silicon Valley, CA	6.33	5.95	9.24	13.41
Seattle/Puget Sound, WA	7.31	n/a	12.37	n/a

Notes:
*Triple Net Rent includes rent (annual) payable to the landlord and does not include additional expenses such as taxes, insurance, maintenance, janitorial and utilities.
** Values in Canadian dollars.
Source: Colliers International, *North America Industrial Real Estate Highlights*, Fourth Quarter 2009

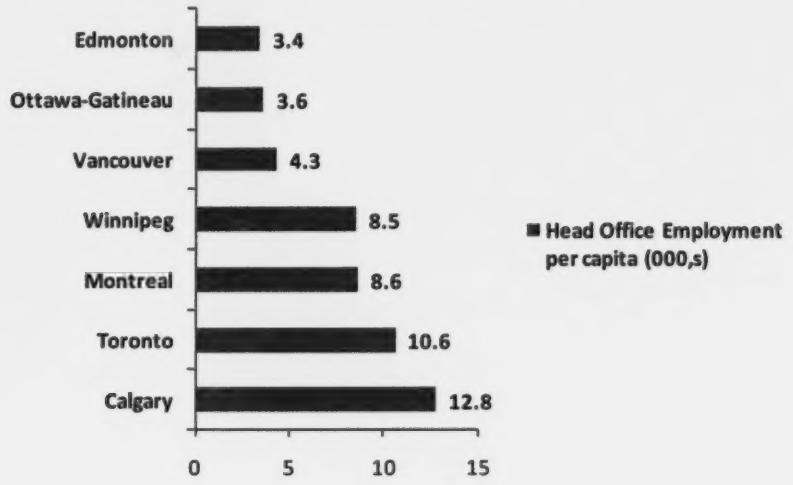
Technology/R&D Space – Triple Net Rent* Per Square Foot** – December 2009

Notes:
*Triple Net Rent includes rent (annual) payable to the landlord and does not include additional expenses such as taxes, insurance, maintenance, janitorial and utilities.
** Values in Canadian dollars.
Source: Colliers International, *North America Industrial Real Estate Highlights*, Fourth Quarter 2009

Commercial Real Estate

Calgary is home to the highest concentration of corporate head office employment and the highest number of head offices per capita in Canada. Edmonton, the capital of Alberta, is the location of most of the provincial and federal government offices.

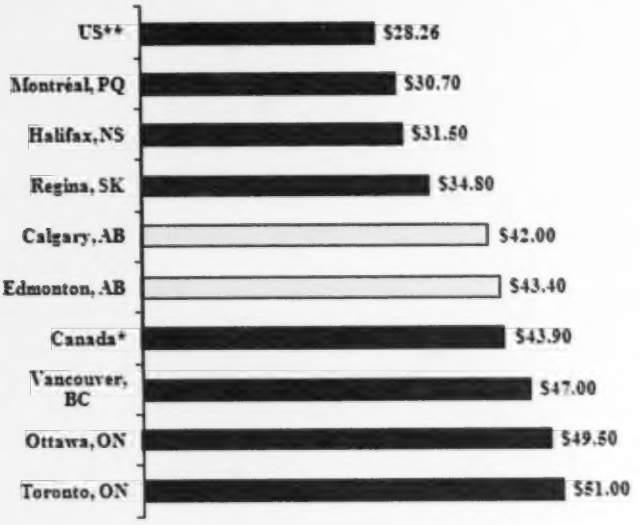
Head Office Employment per Capita (000's) – 2009



Source: Statistics Canada, Business Register, *Head Office Employment in Canada*, 2009

Calgary and Edmonton Class "A" rates are competitive when compared to other major metropolitan areas in North America. With several office towers being completed in 2010, the office vacancy rate in Calgary has increased and rents have decreased slightly. However, the Canadian marketplace is set to benefit from recent job gains and a commodity sector that continues to post robust growth.

Downtown Class 'A' Office Space, Average Annual Quoted Rent Per Square Foot, 2009



Notes:
* weighted average
** weighted average in Canadian dollars
Source: Colliers International, *North America Office Real Estate Highlights*, Fourth Quarter 2009

Residential Housing

RBC Financial Group's housing affordability index measures the proportion of median pre-tax household income required to service the cost of mortgage payments, property taxes and utilities for a home. As of the first quarter of 2010, Alberta homes had increased in affordability relative to 2009.

In contrast to most other provinces, house prices remained relatively stable in Alberta, keeping the cost of home ownership in check. In the first quarter of 2010, all RBC measures were at or below their long-term averages, suggesting that affordability remains at favourable levels.

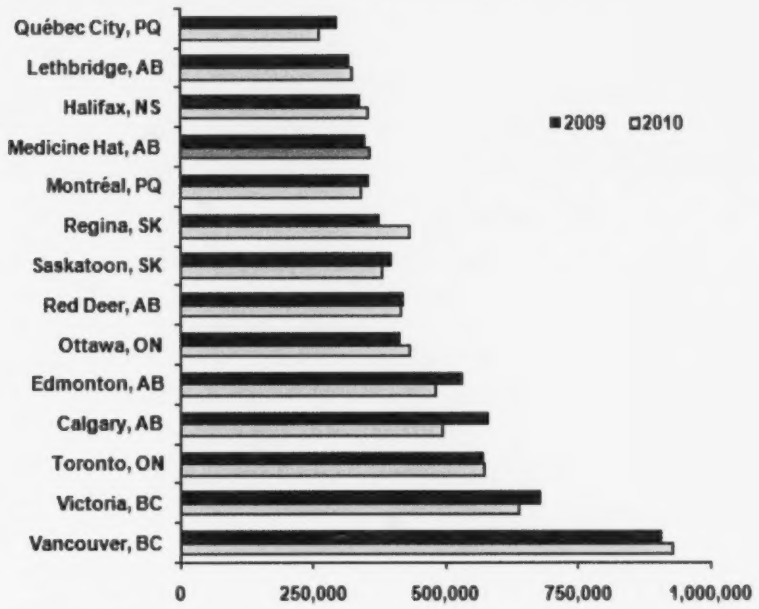
Home Ownership: Provincial Affordability Comparisons
Percentage of household income taken up by ownership costs
(A lower affordability index value indicates increased affordability)

	Detached Bungalow	Standard Two-Storey	Standard Townhouse	Standard Condominium
Canada*	42.9	48.9	34.1	29.3
British Columbia	63.8	71.2	47.7	34.6
Alberta	***34.3***	***37.5***	***25.5***	***21.5***
Saskatchewan	40.8	43.0	31.5	28.1
Manitoba	36.0	39.3	24.7	21.6
Ontario	41.2	47.4	33.9	28.8
Quebec	36.5	43.7	30.2	30.3
Atlantic Canada	32.4	37.8	28.1	26.9

*Population weighted average
Source: RBC Financial Group, *Housing Trends and Affordability, Second Quarter 2010*

As a result of the economic downturn, average home prices in Edmonton and Calgary decreased from the first quarter of 2009 to the first quarter of 2010 and remain competitive in comparison to other large urban centres in Canada. The average home prices fr single-family dwellings in Calgary and Edmonton as of first quarter 2010 are respectively 53.2% and 51.6% of the cost of a similar dwelling in Vancouver. Home prices in Alberta's other urban centers, with the exception of Fort McMurray, are comparable to other cities across Canada.

Average House Price* – Second Quarter 2009 and 2010



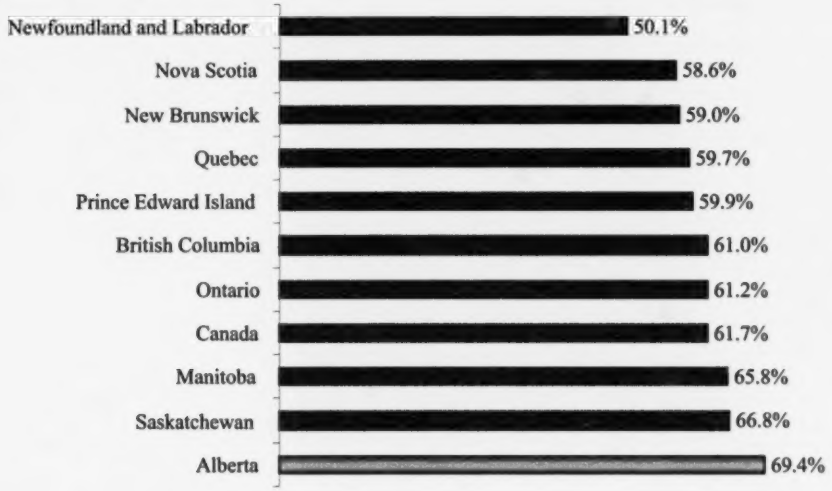
*Absorbed single-detached units.
Source: Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, Housing Market Information, *Housing Now* (provincial reports), Second Quarter 2009, 2010

LABOUR FORCE

Employment

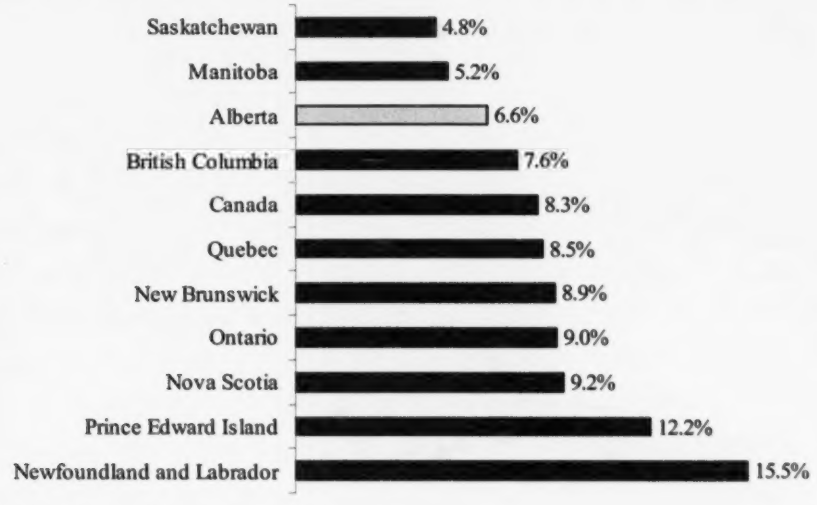
In 2009, Alberta had the highest labour force participation rate among the provinces at 74.3%, higher than the national average of 67.3%. At the same time, Alberta also had the highest employment rate at 69.4% and the third lowest unemployment rate among all provinces at 6.6%.

Employment Rates – 2009



Source: Statistics Canada, *Labour Force Historical Review 2009*

Unemployment Rates – 2009



Source: Statistics Canada, *Labour Force Historical Review 2009*

Between 2008 and 2009, the number of people employed in Alberta declined by 1.3% or by 25,200. The previous decade has seen the number of people employed in the province of Alberta grow by 444,100.

Employment by Industry – 2009

	'000
Agriculture and Forestry	58.3
Mining, oil and gas	136.3
Utilities	20.4
Construction	191.8
Manufacturing	123.1
Trade	301.5
Transportation and warehousing	103.3
Fin., insurance, real estate and leasing	109.7
Professional, scientific and tech. services	151.7
Business, bldg. & other support services	66.6
Educational services	132.1
Health care and social assistance	197.8
Information, culture and recreation	80.0
Accommodation and food services	126.1
Other services	100.1
Public administration	89.3
All industries	1988.1

Employment by Occupation - 2009

Occupation	'000
Management occupations	159.4
Business, finance and administrative occupations	352.1
Natural and applied sciences and related occupations	163.6
Health occupations	108.8
Occupations in social science, education, government service and religion	155.1
Occupations in art, culture, recreation and sport	44.7
Sales and service occupations	470.5
Trades, transport and equipment operators and related occupations	361.1
Occupations unique to primary industry	109.8
Occupations unique to processing, manufacturing and utilities	62.8
All occupations	1988.1

Source: Statistics Canada, *Labour Force Historical Review 2009*

Alberta's overall unionization is estimated at 25%, which is the lowest in Canada. The highest rates of unionization are in the public sector (public administration, education, health and utilities). The unionization rate in the private sector is 12.3%.

According to Human Resources and Skills Development Canada, the estimated number of hours lost to labour disputes in Alberta in 2009 averaged 0.49 hours per employed worker (excludes self employed), compared to 0.97 hours per employed worker nationally.

Estimated Union Coverage – 2009

Sector	Total Employees ('000)	Unionized Employees ('000)	Percent Union Members
Agriculture	11.1	0.0	0.0%
Forestry, fishing, mining, oil and gas	124.6	13.9	11.2%
Utilities	20.3	9.1	44.8%
Construction	135.8	25.7	18.9%
Manufacturing	114.7	21.7	18.9%
Trade	273.7	36.7	13.4%
Transportation and warehousing	84.3	26.1	31.0%
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	86.7	5.0	5.8%
Professional, scientific and technical services	97.1	3.4	3.5%
Business, building and other support services	43.2	3.5	8.1%
Educational services	125.5	86.2	68.7%
Health care and social assistance	173.8	94.8	54.5%
Information, culture and recreation	68.7	15.6	22.7%
Accommodation and food services	117.1	4.8	4.1%
Other services	70.5	5.1	7.2%
Public administration	89.3	56.7	63.5%
Public sector	***363.3***	***252.6***	***69.5%***
Private sector	***1273.1***	***156.0***	***12.3%***
All Industries	1636.4	408.6	25.0%

Note: Excludes self-employed
Source: Statistics Canada, *Labour Force Historical Review 2009*

Skilled Labour

In 2009, 63.2% of the Alberta labour force, 25 years of age and older, reported holding a university degree, post-secondary diploma or certificate. This is slightly below the Canadian average of 64.6%.

Educational Attainment of Labour Force (25 years and older), Annual Averages, 2009

Educational Level	NL	PE	NS	NB	PQ	ON	MB	SK	AB	BC	CA
0 - 8 years	4.8%	3.7%	2.5%	4.3%	3.6%	2.2%	3.0%	2.3%	1.6%	1.6%	2.5%
Some high school	9.7%	11.6%	10.3%	7.5%	9.0%	6.2%	10.1%	9.2%	8.3%	6.0%	7.5%
High school graduate	16.4%	18.7%	16.8%	21.8%	15.5%	19.8%	22.0%	24.6%	20.8%	21.5%	19.3%
Some post-secondary education	5.0%	6.7%	6.0%	6.5%	5.1%	5.4%	8.3%	6.9%	6.1%	8.6%	6.0%
Post-secondary certificate or diploma	45.8%	39.5%	40.3%	39.4%	41.9%	36.1%	33.6%	37.0%	38.0%	33.9%	37.6%
University degree	18.4%	19.9%	24.1%	20.5%	24.8%	30.2%	23.1%	20.0%	25.2%	28.4%	27.0%

Source: Statistics Canada, *Labour Force Historical Review 2009*

Wages and Salaries

Alberta wage and salary rates are competitive with the rest of Canada. Relative to the U.S., Alberta and the rest of Canada provide a cost advantage because of publicly funded heath care.

General Minimum Wage Rate 2010

BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	PQ	NB	NS	PEI	NL
$8.00	$8.80	$9.25	$9.00	$10.25	$9.50	$8.50	$9.20	$8.40	$9.50

Source: Alberta Employment and Immigration, 2010

The *2009 Alberta Wage and Salary Survey* examined more than 200,000 full-time and part-time employees and covers over 400 occupations. It can be used to find information on wages and salaries for full-time and part-time employees in Alberta by occupation, geographic area and industry group. The complete survey can be found online at www.alis.gov.ab.ca.

2009 Alberta Wage and Salary Survey – Select Occupation by Industry

Occupation by Industry	Overall Average Hourly Wage
Accommodation and Food Services Industry (Including Tourism)	
Cooks	$13.69
Food and Beverage Servers	$9.55
Agriculture Industry	
General Farm Workers	$16.22
Labourers in Food, Beverage and Tobacco Processing	$13.89
Business, Building, and Other Support Services Industry	
Receptionists and Switchboard Operators	$17.12
Residential and Commercial Installers and Servicers	$27.66
Construction Industry	
Electricians (Except Industrial and Power System)	$30.56
Plumbers	$31.32
Construction Trades Helpers and Labourers	$20.41
Educational Services Industry	
Secondary School Teachers	$39.81
Elementary School and Kindergarten Teachers	$38.86
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate and Leasing Industry	
Financial Auditors and Accountants	$34.01
Insurance Agents and Brokers	$21.60
Customer Service Representatives - Financial Services	$16.59

... Continued

Occupation by Industry	Overall Average Hourly Wage
Health Care and Social Assistance Industry	
Pharmacists	$46.65
Registered Nurses (Nurse Practitioner)	$36.65
Physiotherapists	$37.52
Manufacturing Industry	
Industrial and Manufacturing Engineers	$42.43
Mining and Oil and Gas Extraction Industry	
Welders and Related Machine Operators	$31.37
Heavy Equipment Operators (Except Crane)	$26.44
Steamfitters and Pipefitters	$32.00
Oil and Gas Well Drilling Workers and Services Operators	$30.51
Other Services (Repair, Personal and Related) Industry	
Automotive Service Technicians	$26.67
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services Industry	
Mechanical Engineers	$47.17
Computer Programmers	$38.17
Civil Engineering Technologists and Technicians	$32.12
Technical Writer	$32.37
Lawyers and Quebec Notaries	$55.81
Public Administration Industry	
Social Workers	$34.10
Retail Trade Industry	
Retail Salespersons and Sales Clerks	$14.39
Cashiers	$11.86
Transportation and Warehousing Industry	
Shippers and Receivers	$17.25
Truck Drivers	$23.74
Wholesale Trade Industry	
Technical Sales Specialists	$34.76
Purchasing and Inventory Clerks	$21.05

Source: Alberta Employment and Immigration

The Alberta Workers' Compensation Board (WCB) has taken major steps over the past several years to improve operations and reduce accident claims. Although unchanged from 2009, Alberta's 2010 average premium rate of $1.32 per $100 of insurable earnings remains the lowest in Canada, considerably lower than the next lowest rate of British Columbia, where the average premium charged is $1.56.

Workers Compensation Board Premiums – 2010

Assessment Rates* Per $100 Payroll

BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	PQ	NB	NS	PE	NL
$1.56	$1.32	$1.63	$1.60	U/A	$2.19	$2.08	$2.65	$2.17	$2.75

*Provisional rates.

Source: Association of Workers' Compensation Boards of Canada

Employment Standards

The majority of employees in the province are covered by the Alberta *Employment Standards Code*, which establishes minimum employment standards for employers and employees. The code stipulates minimum standards in areas such as:

1. **Hours of work, payment of earnings and overtime pay**
   - In general, the maximum workday is 12 hours long.
   - An employer must allow employees at least one day of rest each week. Employees cannot be required to work more than 24 consecutive days unless the period is followed by at least four consecutive days of rest.
   - Employees must be paid at least once a month and no later than 10 consecutive days after the end of each pay period.
   - Time over eight hours in a day and/or 44 hours in a week is considered overtime. Overtime is paid at 1.5 times the regular wage. Employers and employees may enter into a written overtime agreement. With the agreement, instead of overtime pay, employees receive time off with regular pay equal to the number of overtime hours worked.
2. **Vacation and vacation pay**
   - Entitlement to two weeks after 12 months of employment.
   - Entitlement to three weeks after five years of employment.
3. **Minimum wage rate**
   - $8.80 per hour, effective April 1, 2009. The minimum wage in Alberta will remain at $8.80 for 2010. Any changes in the minimum wage occur on April 1. Usually, the minimum wage increases when the average weekly wage goes up.
4. **General holidays**
   - In Alberta, the following are statutory holidays: New Year's Day; Alberta Family Day; Good Friday; Victoria Day; Canada Day; Labour Day; Thanksgiving Day; Remembrance Day; Christmas Day; and any other day designated as a general holiday by an employer.
5. **Minimum termination notice requirements that employers must give**
   - one week – for employment of more than three months, but less than two years
   - two weeks – for employment of two years, but less than four years
   - four weeks – for employment of four years, but less than six years
   - five weeks – for employment of six years, but less than eight years
   - six weeks – for employment of eight years, but less than 10 years
   - eight weeks – for employment of 10 years or more
   - or the wages the employee would have earned for the applicable period of notice
6. **Parental benefits**
   - A birth mother will be able to take up to 52 weeks of unpaid, job-protected leave from employment made up of 15 weeks maternity leave and 37 weeks of parental leave.
   - Fathers and/or adoptive parents are also eligible for 37 weeks of unpaid, job-protected parental leave. Adoptive parents can take parental leave regardless of the age of the adopted child.
   - Parental leave may be taken entirely by one of the parents or can be shared between both parents, but the total cannot exceed 37 weeks.

INVENTORY OF MAJOR ALBERTA PROJECTS

As of September 2010, the value of Alberta's major construction projects totalled $231.9 billion. The Wood Buffalo-Cold Lake region accounted for 46%, followed by the Edmonton region at 25% and the Calgary region at 11%. The oil sands and infrastructure sectors represent the largest share of investments.

Alberta Major Construction Projects*

Region Investment ($ 000,000)	September	
	2009	2010
1) Wood Buffalo - Cold Lake	$100,473.6	$105,891.1
2) Athabasca - Grande Prarie	$9,086.2	$14,405.7
3) Edmonton Region	$60,051.8	$57,103.3
4) Red Deer Region	$3,071.9	$1,828.2
5) Banff - Jasper	$5,346.5	$1,778.1
6) Calgary Region	$32,505.6	$25,460.1
7) Camrose - Drumheller	$3,598.9	$3,283.8
8) Lethbridge - Medicine Hat	$6,924.8	$6,111.5
9) Other**	$18,753.4	$16,034.6
Total	**$239,812.7**	**$231,896.4**

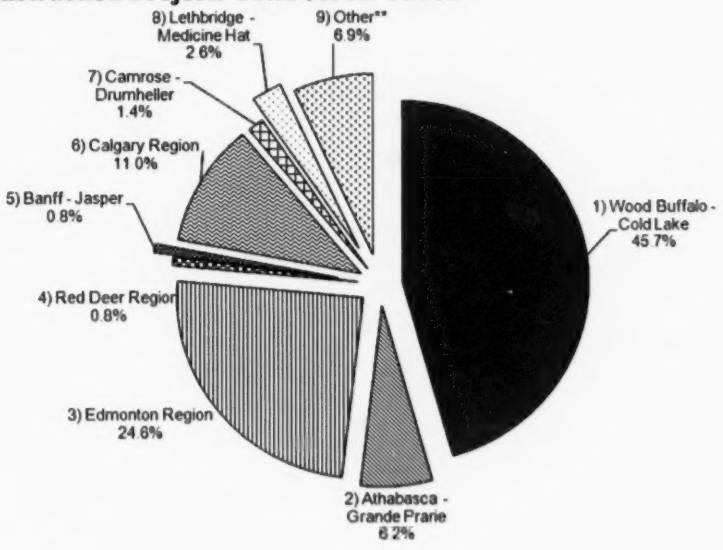
Notes:

* Includes projects valued at $5 million or greater that are planned, underway, or have been recently completed. A number of these projects have been deferred because of the financial crisis and low crude oil prices. It is expected that the projects will proceed when global economic conditions improve.

** Includes projects that cannot be allocated to a specific region, e.g., pipelines, highways, etc.

Source: Alberta Finance and Enterprise, *Inventory of Major Alberta Projects*, September 2010

Alberta Major Construction Projects Total $231.9 billion


8) Lethbridge - Medicine Hat 2.6%
9) Other** 6.9%
7) Camrose - Drumheller 1.4%
6) Calgary Region 11.0%
5) Banff - Jasper 0.8%
4) Red Deer Region 0.8%
3) Edmonton Region 24.6%
2) Athabasca - Grande Prarie 6.2%
1) Wood Buffalo - Cold Lake 45.7%

TRANSPORTATION

Alberta's transportation infrastructure plays a critical role in the province's economy. The province's strength as a major exporter of primary commodities and manufactured products to the global marketplace is supported by a highly efficient and competitive transportation and logistics system.

Alberta has emerged as the western North America warehouse and distribution hub for Canada and the Pacific Northwest region of the United States. With direct connections to two of North America's largest highway trade corridors (CANAMEX and the Trans-Canada Highway), quick and efficient access to other provinces in Canada, and the southern U.S. and Mexican markets is available.

Distances to Major Markets (kilometres)

Canada	Edmonton	Calgary
Montreal	3,551	3,582
Regina	780	758
Saskatoon	523	610
Toronto	3,356	3,387
Vancouver	1,189	957
Winnipeg	1,295	1,326
United States	**Edmonton**	**Calgary**
Chicago	2,610	2,553
Dallas	3,175	2,991
Denver	2,045	1,765
Detroit	3,035	2,978
Los Angeles	2,745	2,460
Minneapolis	2,228	1,920
Portland	1,521	1,252
San Francisco	2,380	2,111
Seattle	1,298	1,067

Source: Household Goods Carrier's Bureau - Mileage Guide

Railways

Two transcontinental railway companies, Canadian National (CN) and Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR), service Alberta. Both companies provide highly efficient and competitive service in the movement of export commodities such as petrochemicals, forest products, grain, coal, fertilizers and sulphur to major ports, and throughout the U.S. and Mexico. A modern network of intermodal terminals is strategically located at Vancouver, Prince Rupert, Prince George, Calgary, Edmonton, Regina, Saskatoon, Winnipeg, Thunder Bay, Dryden, Toronto, Mississauga,

Brampton, Montreal, Moncton and Halifax for movement of containerized cargo to the United States and international markets.

Highways

Alberta has more than 30,800 km of provincial highways that form an extensive network throughout the province. More than 27,000 km are paved and 3,800 km are gravelled. Alberta's provincial highway network connects Alberta to the North American highway system and provincial highways in the province have good pavement conditions.

Alberta is enhancing its section of the Canada, America and Mexico (CANAMEX) corridor, which links the three countries and stretches about 6,000 km from Anchorage, Alaska to Mexico City, Mexico. The goals of the CANAMEX corridor are to improve access for the north-south flow of goods and people; increase transport productivity and reduce transport costs; promote a seamless and efficient inter-modal transport system; and reduce administration and enforcement costs through harmonized regulations.

Air Service

Alberta has a network of 91 international, regional, and paved community airports. The province is home to several air taxi, commuter, airline and special flight operations. Alberta also has ambulance, forest fire suppression, agriculture crop spraying, aerial mapping and remote sensing, corporate aviation, recreational flying and flying education services.

Both Calgary and Edmonton feature world-class international airports providing Alberta with some of the best national and international connections in Canada. These airports have 24-hour cargo services, modern cargo terminals and U.S. pre-clearance facilities. They are used by major international airlines and provide direct passenger and cargo services to many North American and international destinations. They are also the major gateways to northern Canada.

Calgary International Airport, which serves as a hub for air traffic in the prairies, has the largest civil aviation runway in Canada measuring 3,863 metres. In 2009 it was Canada's fourth-busiest airport by passenger volume, handling 11.3 million passengers. Calgary International Airport's passenger growth over the past five years is 29%. Calgary International Airport is the only Canadian airport strategically located on the crossroads of the TransCanada (east-west) and CANAMEX (north-south) Highways.

The Edmonton International Airport is Canada's most northerly 24-hour international airport. It is Canada's fifth busiest airport with annual passenger movement of more than 5.8 million in 2009. From 2004 to 2009 Edmonton International's passenger growth was almost 50%. The Edmonton International Airport is the second-largest airport in Canada measured by landmass, comprising an area of over 7,000 acres. Strategically located, Edmonton International Airport is conveniently situated adjacent to the major highway linking Edmonton and Calgary.

POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION

Albertans are among the best-educated people in North America. Alberta's post-secondary system has 27 publicly-funded institutions, including six universities, two technical institutes, 12 public colleges, six private university colleges that receive public funding, and the Banff Centre. In 2007-2008 Alberta's six universities had over 147,500 full- and part-time students. More than 268,000 full- and part-time students were enrolled in the public post-secondary education system. In addition, Alberta has around 70,400 registered apprentices in 50 trades.

Enrolment in Publicly Funded Post-Secondary Institutions: 2007-2008

	Full Time Students	Part Time Students	Total Students [1]	Full Load Equivalents (FLEs) [2]
University of Alberta (including Augustana)	34,811	5,556	40,367	32,684
University of Calgary	24,461	6,063	30,524	23,654
University of Lethbridge	7,989	1,311	9,300	6,938
Athabasca University	4,464	33,422	37,886	7,193
Comprehensive Academic and Research Institutions	71,725	46,352	118,077	70,469
Grant MacEwan University	11,310	5,523	16,833	10,205
Mount Royal University	9,067	3,609	12,676	7,877
Baccalaureate and Applied Studies Institutions	20,377	9,132	29,509	18,082
Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT)	23,204	5,145	28,349	12,980
Southern Alberta Institute of Technology (SAIT)	17,933	10,727	28,660	11,610
Polytechnical Institutions	41,137	15,872	57,009	24,590
Bow Valley College	2,771	5,348	8,119	3,591
Grande Prairie Regional College	1,417	882	2,299	1,251
Keyano College	1,847	692	2,539	1,290
Lakeland College	2,881	5,191	8,072	1,928
Lethbridge College	4,759	1,558	6,317	3,669
Medicine Hat College	2,771	2,804	5,575	2,347
NorQuest College	4,497	2,200	6,697	4,365
Northern Lakes College	917	648	1,565	860
Olds College	1,513	1,614	3,127	1,275
Portage College	1,094	1,680	2,774	911
Red Deer College	5,989	1,070	7,059	3,653
Comprehensive Community Institutions	30,456	23,687	54,143	25,141
Ambrose University College	388	117	505	317
Canadian University College	333	94	427	287
Concordia University College of Alberta	1,608	341	1,949	1,424
St. Mary's University College	450	106	556	347
Taylor University College & Seminary	142	61	203	129
The King's University College	542	108	650	472
Independent Academic Institutions	3,463	827	4,290	2,976
Alberta College of Art and Design	1,088	228	1,316	972
The Banff Centre [3]	3,782	-	3,782	341
Specialized Arts and Culture Institutions	4,870	228	5,098	1,313
TOTAL	172,028	96,098	268,126	142,571

Notes:

1 This is the total unduplicated headcount and may not equal the sum of the institutional totals as a learner can attend more than one institution.

2 An FLE (full-load equivalent) represents one learner taking a full course load for a standard year of study. FLEs allow for comparisons across program types

3. Enrolments for the Banff Centre are not reported through the Learner Enrolment Reporting System. The FLE and headcounts are the enrolments in the Banff Centre's Arts programs. All enrolments are full-time. The Banff Centre also offers programming that is not considered credit instruction, however, the institution is publicly funded

Source: Alberta Advanced Education and Technology, *Facts and Figures*, 2009.

Alberta Universities and Technical Institutes

University of Alberta

Founded in 1908, the University of Alberta (U of A) has grown to become one of Canada's foremost research-intensive universities. It is Canada's second-largest English-speaking university in 2008-2009, serving in excess of 37,000 students in more than 200 undergraduate and 170 graduate programs. The U of A also offers liberal arts education at its Augustana Campus in Camrose.

The U of A is the largest research institution in the province and ranks among the top Canadian universities in annual sponsored research funding. In 2008/09, the U of A generated more than $498 million in research revenue (including clinical trials and related research). Because of its focus on research, the U of A ranks among the top five Canadian universities for total annual sponsored research funding from the three federal government granting councils: the Canadian Institute for Health Research, the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council, and the Social Science and Humanities Research Council. In 2006/2007 the university ranked second of G13 universities by total sponsored research revenue. U of A researchers participate actively in 21 of 25 (2008/09) federal Networks of Centres of Excellence that link industry, universities, and the government in applied research and development.

Full-Time Equivalent Enrolment*
By Faculty, 2008-2009

Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences	1,400
Arts	6,031
Augustana	863
Business	2,271
Education	3,421
Engineering	4,154
Law	519
Medicine and Dentistry	1,875
Native Studies	115
Nursing	1,785
Open Studies	651
Physical Education and Recreation	997
Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences	589
Rehabilitation Medicine	4
Faculté Saint-Jean	567
Science	6,219
Undergraduate Studies total	*31,464*
Graduate Studies total	*6,322*
Total	**37,785**

*The full-year FTE enrolment count uses Fall and Spring/Summer seasonal headcounts. Part-time graduate student counts are divided by 3, part-time undergraduate counts by 4. Each fall full-time student is counted as 1.0.
Source: University of Alberta, *University of Alberta Data Book*. February 2010

In 2008-2009 the U of A:

- Produced 98 inventions;
- received 48 patents; and
- received 23 licenses/ options to use technologies.

For Further Information:

Office of Public Affairs
6th Floor, General Services Building
University of Alberta,
Edmonton, Alberta
Canada T6G 2H1
Phone: (780) 492-2325
Website: www.ualberta.ca

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

The University of Calgary (U of C), founded in 1945, is home to scholars in 19 faculties (offering more than 100 academic programs) and 30 research institutes and centres, 4,000 academic and support staff, and more than 24,400 full-time undergraduate and graduate students in 2008-2009.

As one of Canada's top research-intensive universities, the U of C's secured $272 million in sponsored research funding revenues in 2009/2010. Since 2006 the U of C has been ranked in the top 10 of Canada's research universities and continues to increase research funding revenue. In 2009 the U of C actively participated in 12 Networks of Centres of Excellence, an innovative national approach to research and development designed to develop Canada's economy and improve the Canadian way of life.

There were 35 new chairs added in 2009/2010. Government and industry jointly support more than 135 endowed chairs in total oat the University of Calgary, with an allocation of $5.29 million.

Full-Time Students by Faculty2008-2009

Collaborative Degree	176
Combined Degree students*	624
Communication & Culture	1,415
Education	746
Fine Arts	394
Haskayne School of Business	2,407
Humanities	1,082
Kinesiology	583
Law	275
Medicine	1,476
Open Studies	844
Nursing	762
Schulich School of Engineering	2,715
Science	3,562
Social Sciences	2,807
Social Work	345
Undergraduate Studies total	*20,248*
Graduate Studies total	*4,222*
Total	**24,470**

*Combined degree students are registered in degree programs in two or more faculties.

Source: University of Calgary, *Fact Book 2008-2009*, January 2010

The U of C is a leader in collaborative research relationships and partnerships with academia, government, private and non-profit organizations.

- Companies spun-off from research and innovation at the university are valued at more than half a billion dollars.
- The U of C is among the top four universities in Canada in revenue generated from licensing activity.

For Further Information:

Communications Office
Administration 113
University of Calgary
2500 University Drive NW
Calgary, Alberta, Canada T2N 1N4
Phone: (403) 220- 2920
Website: www.ucalgary.ca

MacEwan

Founded in 1971 as a community college, Grant MacEwan University (MacEwan) was officially granted university status in September 2009. MacEwan has been offering full bachelor's degrees since 2004. MacEwan comprises four schools and faculties and is home to over 10,000 full-load equivalent students. It offers six Bachelor degrees, three university transfer programs, three applied degrees and more than 60 diploma and certificate programs.

MacEwan offers programs in the liberal and performing arts, science, communications, business, and health and community studies. Students can also take preparation for university and college classes; professional and personal; development courses; and customized corporate training. MacEwan also offers numerous delivery modes such as full-time, part-time and online.

While primarily a teaching-focused university, MacEwan instructors also engage in various research projects – often including undergraduate students and integrating their research into the classroom to enrich the students' experience.

MacEwan has four campuses in Edmonton: City Centre campus, Alberta College Campus, Centre for the Arts and Communication and South Campus. MacEwan plans to eventually combine all its programs at the City Centre campus.

Additional information:

Grant MacEwan University
P.O. Box 1796
Edmonton, Alberta T5J 2P2
Phone: (780) 497-5040
Website: www.macewan.ca

Athabasca University

Athabasca University (AU) is Canada's leading distance-education and online university. In 2008/09 AU served more than 37,000 students. Approximately 265,000 students have registered in AU's individualized courses and programs since the university was created by the Government of Alberta in 1970.

AU offers full bachelor degree programs and university transfer courses in the natural and pure sciences, humanities, social sciences, interdisciplinary studies, administrative studies, commerce, nursing and allied professional fields. At the graduate level, the university offers degree programs in distance education, health studies, and business administration. AU's programs are predominantly available through individualized study. Course materials are designed specifically for distance and online learners.

Additional Information:

Athabasca University
1 University Drive
Athabasca, Alberta T9S 3A3
Phone: 1-800-788-9041
Website: www.athabascau.ca

THE NORTHERN ALBERTA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

The Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT) offers 41 accredited programs and courses, and is considered one of Canada's finest and largest technical training institutes. NAIT is Alberta's third largest post-secondary educational institution with approximately 86,000 customers each year. NAIT trains half of Alberta's 70,400 registered apprentices and 17% of Canada's registered apprentices.

NAIT is a leader in technical training and applied education designed to meet the demands of Alberta's industries. NAIT confers certificates, diplomas, and applied degrees. The Institute has more than 250 programs, including 35 apprenticeship offerings and over 1,400 continuing education courses. The NAIT HP Centre for Information and Communications Technology is one of the most technologically advanced facilities in the world. The Centre provides a leading-edge environment for applied technology and research.

Additional Information:

Northern Alberta Institute of Technology
11762 – 106 Street
Edmonton, Alberta T5G 3H1
Phone: 1-800-661-4077
Website: www.nait.ab.ca

Since it was founded in 1916, the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology (SAIT) has become a leader in providing state-of-the-practice technological training. In recent years, SAIT has developed seven world-class Centres of Excellence, along with the 390 corporate specific training programs offered by SAIT, are symbols of its reputation as an industry driven technical institute.

SAIT is known worldwide for its quality technical education and hands-on training. More than 1,000 private and public sector professionals provided advice and guidance to ensure that what is taught in the classroom is what's required in the workplace. SAIT provides education and first class training to more than 75,000 individuals each year in 101 apprenticeship, applied degree, diploma and certificate programs.

Additional Information:

Southern Alberta Institute of Technology
1301 – 16 Avenue NW
Calgary, Alberta T2M 0L4
Phone: 1-877-284-SAIT (7248)
Website: www.sait.ab.ca

University of Lethbridge

The University of Lethbridge (U of L) offers full degree programs in arts and science, education, health sciences, fine arts, and management to approximately 7,800 full-time equivalent students. The U of L has a focus on liberal arts, selected professional programs, smaller classes, co-op placements, and involvement of students in faculty research. There are five faculties and schools at the U of L offering over 150 undergraduate program options. Many courses are also offered on U of L campuses in Edmonton and Calgary.

The U of L is one of the few Canadian universities committed to a liberal arts undergraduate education. The Centre for the Arts at the U of L was designed to bring together the teaching faculties of art, music and theatre/drama, and to provide teaching spaces tailored to their specific needs.

Additional Information:

The University of Lethbridge
4401 University Drive
Lethbridge, Alberta T1K 3M4
Phone: (403) 320-5700
Website: www.uleth.ca

MOUNT ROYAL
UNIVERSITY
1910
CALGARY, ALBERTA

Mount Royal University is Canada's oldest new undergraduate university. Established in 1910 and building on 100 years of academic excellence, Mount Royal received permission from the Government of Alberta in September, 2009 to change its name from Mount Royal College to Mount Royal University. Mount Royal's programs combine liberal and applied studies for more than 13,000 students each year, providing individual fulfillment, opportunities for further studies and employment to its graduates.

Mount Royal offers more than 60 degree, applied degree, diploma and certificate programs through seven faculties: Faculty of Arts, Bissett School of Business, Faculty of Communication Studies, Faculty of Health and Community Studies, Faculty of Science and Technology, Faculty of Teaching and Learning, and the Mount Royal University Conservatory. The Faculty of Teaching and Learning — unique in Canada — also enables faculty to conduct teaching–learning research, participate in scholarly exchanges and enrich their teaching skills.

The University is home to research-focused institutes including the Institute for Nonprofit Studies, the Integrative Health Institute and the Institute for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning. A new Centre for Child Well-Being and a Criminal Justice Research Lab were both launched in 2009.

More information:

Mount Royal University
4825 Mount Royal Gate SW
Calgary, Alberta T3E 6K6
Telephone: 403.440.6111
Website: www.mtroyal.ca

Public and Private Colleges

Alberta has an extensive network of public and private accredited colleges. These institutions offer academic upgrading, job readiness, apprenticeship, certificate, diploma, university transfer and applied degree programs. Alberta's 14 public colleges include:

- Alberta College of Art and Design (Calgary)
- Bow Valley College (Calgary)
- Grande Prairie Regional College (Grande Prairie)
- Keyano College (Fort McMurray)
- Lakeland College (Lloydminster, Vermilion, Sherwood Park)
- Lethbridge College (Lethbridge)
- Medicine Hat College (Medicine Hat, Brooks)
- NorQuest College (Edmonton, Stony Plain, Wetaskiwin)
- Northern Lakes College (Grouard, Slave Lake)
- Olds College (Olds)
- Portage College (St. Paul, Cold Lake, Lac La Biche)
- Red Deer College (Red Deer)

The Campus Alberta Quality Council (CAQC) reviews all proposals for new degree programs from both public and private institutions to ensure they are of high quality before they are approved. The Council also conducts periodic evaluations of approved degree programs to ensure that quality standards continue to be met. Alberta has six private colleges accredited to grant specific academic degrees at the university level. These include:

- Ambrose University College (Calgary)
- Canadian University College (Lacombe)
- Concordia University College of Alberta (Edmonton)
- The King's University College (Edmonton)
- St. Mary's University College (Calgary)
- Taylor University College and Seminary (Edmonton)

In addition, The Banff Centre is a publicly funded institution that provides advanced continuing education opportunities in fine arts, management studies, language training and environmental training for people who already have academic credentials and/or professional experience in their discipline.

Educational Support

Alberta's education system continues to be among the best in the world and is staying at the forefront by providing students with the tools they need to achieve their potential. Investments in schools, universities, colleges and technical institutes are increasing, so they can provide high quality and affordable education.

The Alberta's per student and per capita spending on basic education continues to be among the highest in Canada. Provincial funding for K-12 in 2010/11 is $6.3 billion. Of that, $5.4 billion provides operating support to school boards and other educational support to manage current initiatives, giving the province the flexibility to address local education needs.

In 2010/11, the Government of Alberta is providing more than $3.2 billion for operating and capital programs for the post-secondary education system. Of the total post-secondary funding for 2010/11,

$206 million is dedicated towards Alberta's provincial student assistance and debt relief programs – the most generous in Canada. Another one billion dollars was allocated to post-secondary capital projects to be supported over three years.

The Government of Alberta is committed to encouraging and rewarding the excellence of Alberta students by offering scholarships through the Achievement Scholarship program, the Alberta Heritage Scholarship Fund, and need-based bursaries.

The Alberta government established the Achievement Scholarships program in 2000 to recognize the excellence of Alberta students. This program includes the Jason Lang Scholarship, the Jimmie Condon Athletic Scholarship, and the Graduate Student Scholarship. These scholarships continue to be offered nearly a decade later.

The Alberta Heritage Scholarship Fund was designed to stimulate the pursuit of excellence by rewarding outstanding achievement and encouraging and assisting Albertans to achieve their fullest potential. The scholarships and awards support Albertans in many areas including academics, the arts, community involvement and athletics. The scholarship fund currently administers over 40 different scholarships and has a budget in excess of $38 million (2010/11).

Alberta Scholarship Programs also administers the Northern Alberta Development Council Bursary, Northern Student Supplement, Alberta Opportunities Bursary, the Canada Millennium Bursary and the Millennium Alberta Rural Incentive Bursary to assist students in financial need in the pursuit of their studies.

In 2005, the Government of Alberta launched the Alberta Centennial Education Savings Plan (ACES) to provide an incentive for parents to begin planning and saving for their children's post-secondary education as early as possible. The plan contributes $500 to the Registered Education Savings Plan (RESP) of every child born to Alberta residents. The same year, an Alberta-funded national scholarship program was launched by the Government of Alberta as an Alberta centennial gift to Canadians.

The Alberta Centennial Scholarships provides 325 scholarships annually. One of these awards is the Queen Elizabeth II Graduate Scholarship, established in honour of The Queen's visit to Alberta in May 2005, to commemorate the province's centennial year. The program provides awards to Canadian citizens or permanent residents who are enrolled full-time in a master or doctoral program at a designated Alberta university.

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY

Alberta has an excellent science and research infrastructure (including people, knowledge, equipment, and facilities) that forms the basis for the development, adoption and commercialization of new technology, products and processes that are recognized and sold globally.

Prior to 2010 Alberta research organizations operated as individual groups. They were recently consolidated into one organization -- Alberta Innovates (www.albertainnovates.ca) -- creating five new organizations that will further build on Alberta's strengths in the health, energy and environment, technology and bio sectors.

The new organizations include:

Alberta Innovates – Bio Solutions

http://www.albertainnovates.ca/bio/introduction

Alberta Innovates – Energy and Environmental Solutions; http://www.albertainnovates.ca/energy/introduction

Alberta Innovates – Health Solutions;

http://www.albertainnovates.ca/health/introduction

Alberta Innovates – Technology Futures; http://www.albertainnovates.ca/technology/introduction

and

Alberta Innovates – Alberta Research and Innovation Authority
http://www.albertainnovates.ca/research/introduction

With its new Alberta Innovates research and innovation system and its Action Plan for Bringing Technology to Market, Alberta provides an attractive platform for companies to accelerate innovations into the global marketplace.

The Alberta Innovates agencies seek solutions in key priority areas of Health, Energy and the Environment and Bio-industries. They are supported by research and development-focused information and communications technology, life science and nanotechnology organizations, and a new Technology Futures agency dedicated to supporting company creation and growth in emerging industries and markets.

Alberta offers a supportive business climate with its Scientific Research and Experimental Development tax credit program, Innovation Vouchers program and the Alberta Enterprise Corporation, which will help attract venture capital investments to Alberta.

The Government of Alberta's Connector Service provides one-window access to Alberta's research and innovation community. It offers innovative businesses, entrepreneurs, researchers, investors and business service providers a helping hand to guide them through Alberta's research and innovation system. Contact the Alberta Innovates Connector Service at 1-877-828-0444 or connector@albertainnovates.ca.

Research Funding at Alberta Universities

Alberta's research universities rank among the best in Canada in terms of sponsored research revenue, an indicator of excellence and capacity. In 2007/2008, these universities received $761 million in sponsored research funding, an increase of 22% over the past five years. Over the past five years, they have received a total of $3.4 billion in sponsored research funding.

Since 1997/1998, provincial government funding for university research has quadrupled, reaching $271 million in 2007/2008, a firm indication of Alberta's commitment towards science and innovation. Over the same period, federal government research funding to Alberta research universities has more than tripled to $306 million and the level of sponsored research funding provided to universities by non-governmental sources (primarily industry and non-profit organizations) more than doubled to $214 million.

Alberta's major research universities generate funding through the activities of their respective technology transfer programs: TEC Edmonton for the University of Alberta, University Technologies International Inc. for the University of Calgary, and the Technology Transfer Office for the University of Lethbridge. In 2006/2007, these universities filed 151 patents, were issued 40 patents, formed four start-up companies, and received $6.5 million in gross licensing revenues.

World-Class Research Infrastructure

Alberta researchers have access to some of the leading technology in the world. It is the research capacity established by this high quality infrastructure that attracts and retains the best researchers, those who generate new knowledge, who address pressing needs in our society, and who train the best students to take that knowledge into the workforce.

Highly trained and skilled researchers and students are critical for building, attracting and retaining successful companies to fuel Alberta's economy. Alberta is committed to ensuring its researchers have access to the equipment they need. To that end, the Alberta Science and Research Investments Program (ASRIP) committed in its last competition approximately $43 million in support of research infrastructure in Alberta. These funds support fourteen projects with a total cost of $188 million, including equipment to support research in high performance computing, remote sensing, nanotechnology, improved oil sands recovery, prion diseases research, genomics and other.

Alberta Finance and Enterprise
4th Fl Commerce Place
10155-102 Street
Edmonton, AB
Canada T5J 4L6

Telephone: 780.427.6787
Fax: 780.422.0061

Website: **www.albertacanada.com**

© 2010 Government of Alberta

ISBN: 978-0-7785-5887-3 print
ISBN: 978-0-7785-5888-0 pdf
ISSN: 1707-8407 print
ISSN: 1911-2505 pdf

Printed in Canada

You can access Facts on Alberta and the following related department publications on the Internet at:
http://albertacanada.com/about-alberta/statistics-and-publications.html

- Monthly Economic Review
- Inventory of Major Alberta Projects
- Highlights of the Alberta Economy
- Place-to-Place Price Comparison Survey